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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,518	07/11/2003	Mark F. Bares	M297.12-0307	2968

27367 7590 01/12/2006

WESTMAN CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.
SUITE 1400 - INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3319

EXAMINER

PARRIES, DRU M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2836

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/617,518

Applicant(s)

BARES ET AL.

Examiner

Dru M. Parries

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-11-03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 16 is objected to because of the following informalities: The Examiner believes that the claim dependency is incorrect. The Examiner believes that this claim is dependent upon claim 15. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner suggests that the word “when” (line 4) be replaced with the word “that”.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art (Admission), Stevenson et al. (6,805,393) and Read (5,602,526). Admission teaches a loader having a frame, an operator door, a door latch and a striker, and the latch engaging the striker when the door is closed (Claim 8, lines 1-8). Admission fails to teach a

sensor and interlock arrangement implemented into the vehicle. Stevenson teaches a door with a sensor mounted on the door adjacent to a latch, and a striker on the vehicle body. He teaches the sensor detecting whether the door is closed or not and then sends a signal (or lack thereof) to indicate the position of the door (open or closed), to enable or disable a vehicle function (Abstract, Col. 3, lines 8-30). Stevenson doesn't explicitly teach exactly how his sensor system detects closure of the door nor what type of sensor it is. Read teaches a sensor system for detecting the closure of a door via two element sensor. He teaches one element being a sensor (magnetically actuated switch) attached to a vehicle body. He teaches a second element being a magnet (switch actuator) attached to the door of the vehicle. He goes on to teach the switch mounted to be juxtaposed to the magnet when the door is closed (abstract), which means, when combined with Stevenson, that one sensor element will be mounted on the latch, and the other would be mounted on the latch striker. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate Stevenson's and Read's sensor/interlock system into Prior Art, so that there are some safety features incorporated into the system of the construction equipment to make operating the loader safer. None of the references teach explicitly the magnet being on the body of the vehicle and the sensor being on the door. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to reverse the elements (magnet and sensor) in Read's teaching, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Einstein*, 9 USPO 167.

6. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art (Admission), Stevenson et al. (6,805,393) and Read (5,602,526) as applied to claims 1-3 above,

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and further in view of Cahn et al. (2004/0203381). Admission, Stevenson and Read teach an interlock arrangement on a loader as described above. These three references fail to teach what type of magnetically actuated switch is being used. Cahn teaches a magnetically actuated switch being a reed switch, and teaches that a reed switch could be replaced with a Hall Effect sensor ([0028]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement either a magnetic reed switch or a Hall Effect sensor as the magnetically actuated switch because it wasn't specifically taught what type of switch that is, and possible replacements were taught and are well known in the art to work.

7. Claims 9 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art (Admission), Stevenson et al. (6,805,393) and Read (5,602,526) as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Wherley (2004/0000799). Admission, Stevenson and Read teach an interlock arrangement on a loader as described above. These three references fail to teach the functions being disabled to be hydraulic functions. Wherley teaches an interlock system, which detects the state of a door and upon detecting the door being in an open state disables hydraulic functions (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to disable the hydraulic lifting arms because it diminishes the potential for damage to an open door or a human being.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims would be allowable because no prior art of

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record teaches an interlock system based on a door, wherein when the door is removed completely from the system, the operating functions will be enabled at all times.

Conclusion

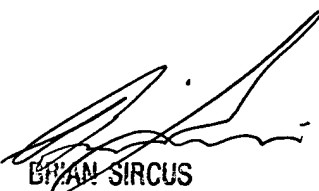
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dru M. Parries whose telephone number is (571) 272-8542. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus, can be reached on 571-272-2800 x 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DMP

1-4-2006


BRIAN SIRCUS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800